Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7540

CONFIDENTIAL MEXICO 12150

PASS AID/PHA /POP

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SPOP, MX

SUBJECT: POPULATION: AVS PROPOSAL NO. 167, INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE LA

NUTRICION

REF: STATE 227748

1. IN RECENT DISCUSSION BETWEEN EMBPOPOFF AND GOM MINISTRY OF HEALTH DIRECTOR OF FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS (ATENCION MEDICO MATERNO-INFRANTIL) DR. SEPTIEN VOICED DISCOMFITURE AT FACT THAT PRIVATE GROUPS SUCH AS AVS ARE SUPPORTING PROJECTS IN MEXICO WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF GOM. SEPTIEN APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S INSISTENCE THAT USG-FUNDED STERILI-ZATION PROJECTS BE APPROVED BY GOM PRIOR TO INITIATION AND WOULD PREFER SAME RIGHT TO REVIEW AND APPROVE (OR DISAPPROVE) FUNDING FOR STERILIZATION PROJECTS COMING FROM PRIVATE SOURCES AS WELL. EMBASSY REALIZES THAT AVS AND OTHER PRIVATE US DONORS CANNOT BE REQUIRED TO INFORM AND REQUEST APPROVAL OF GOM FOR PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN WITH PRIVATE FUNDS, BUT SUGGESTS THAT THESE GROUPS BE ADVISED THAT STERILIZA-TION PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY PRIVATE FUNDS MAY BE JUST AS SENSITIVE TO GOM AS THOSE SUPPORTED BY DIRECT OR INDIRECT USG FUNDING. EMBASSY WOULD HOPE SUCH PROJECTS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT PRIOR KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT OF GOM.

2. RE PARA 4 REFTEL, EMBASSY FEELS STRONGLY THAT IN CASE OF USG-FUNDED STERILIZATION PROJECTS OFFICIAL CABINET-LEVEL APPROVAL CONFIDENTIAL

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IS DESIRABLE BOTH TO MAINTAIN LEVEL OF TRUST BETWEEN

EMBASSY AND GOM, AND AS SAFEGUARD IN EVENT OF ADVERSE PUBLICITY. EMBASSY WILL REQUIRE APPROVAL FOR SUCH PROJECTS, WHEHTER UNDERTAKEN BY GOM SECRETARY OF HEALTH OR INDEPENDENT AGENCIES OR GROUPS, FROM EITHER MINISTER OF HEALTH OR MINISTER OF GOBERNACION. OTHER CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIALS WOULD PROBABLY NOT REPEAT NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR GO-AHEAD ON THESE PROJECTS.

THOMPSON

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